

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 14 and 16-21 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 and 14 have been amended to further define the claimed invention, and claims 16-21 have been added to claim additional features of the claimed invention. Claims 2-3, 7, 11-13 and 15 have been canceled.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 3-4 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant notes that claims 4 and 8 have been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claims 4 and 8, and claim 9 which depends from claim 8, are in condition for immediate allowance.

Further, claims 2-3 have been canceled, and claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of allowable claim 3. Therefore, claim 1, as well as claims 5, 6, 10 and 14 which depend from claim 1, are in condition for immediate allowance.

Submitted herewith is a proposed drawing correction to address the objections raised by the Examiner. In addition, the specification has been amended in accordance with the proposed drawing correction.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 14 and 16-21, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for immediate allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

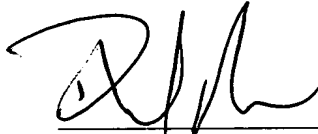
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8

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 6/20/03



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